

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A parking meter, comprising:
a processor to process parking related information;
a clock in communication with the processor;
5 an antenna coupled to the parking meter for receiving a wireless broadcast data;
a receiver communicating with the antenna to demodulate the wireless broadcast data received by the antenna; and
10 an interface communicating with the receiver to communicate the wireless broadcast data.

2. The parking meter of Claim 1, wherein the antenna is further defined as a ferrite antenna.

15 3. The parking meter of Claim 1, wherein the parking meter is further provided with a printed circuit board coupled to the parking meter and wherein the antenna is further defined as a trace on the printed circuit board.

20 4. The parking meter of Claim 1, wherein the wireless broadcast data is further defined as an AM signal and the receiver is further defined an integrated circuit for receiving the AM signal.

25 5. The parking meter of Claim 1, wherein the wireless broadcast data includes a time data related to a current time-of-day.

6. The parking meter of Claim 5, wherein the processor is operative to synchronize the clock based on the time data in response to receiving the wireless broadcast data.

5 7. A method of synchronizing a clock on a parking meter, comprising:

receiving a wirelessly broadcast data that includes
a time-of-day data; and
10 updating the clock on the parking meter based on the
wirelessly broadcast data.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the time-of-day data is based on an atomic clock.

15 9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the time-of-day data is based on a time reference generated by a television signal.

20 10. The method of Claim 7, wherein the wirelessly broadcast data is further defined as a wireless internet connection and wherein the time-of-day data is further defined as a time reference based on a standard time measurement device.

25 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the standard time measurement device is an atomic clock.

12. A method of synchronizing time circuits on a plurality of parking meters, comprising:

broadcasting a time signal including a time-of-day data;

5 receiving the time signal by a plurality of parking meters; and

synchronizing a clock on at least one of the plurality of parking meters based on the time signal.

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13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the time-of-day data is based on an atomic clock.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the time-of-day data 15 is based on a time reference generated by a television signal.

15. The method of Claim 12, wherein the method further includes establishing a wireless internet connection.

20 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the time-of-day data is based on an atomic clock.

17. A parking meter, comprising:
a housing;
a payment slot coupled to the housing to receive
payment for parking;
a processor in communication with the payment slot;
a display communicating with the processor to
display a parking information based on payment
received via the payment slot;
a clock communicating with the processor, the clock
to maintain a time information for use by the
parking meter;
an antenna to receive a wireless broadcast time
data;
a receiver to demodulate the wireless broadcast time
data; and
an interface coupled to communicate the wireless
broadcast time data to the clock.

18. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein the processor
is operative to synchronize the time information maintained by
the clock based on the wireless broadcast time data.

19. The parking meter of Claim 18, wherein the clock is
a real-time clock.

20. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein the wireless
broadcast time data is further defined as an AM signal with a
time information based on a standard time measurement device.

21. The parking meter of Claim 20, wherein the standard time measurement device is an atomic clock.

22. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein the wireless broadcast time data is further defined as a time reference generated by a television signal.
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23. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein the wireless broadcast time data is further defined as a wireless Internet connection providing a time reference.
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24. The parking meter of Claim 23, wherein the time reference is based on an atomic clock.

15 25. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein the payment receiving slot is further defined as card reader to receive a smart card.

20 26. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein the payment receiving slot is further defined as card reader to receive a credit card.

25 27. The parking meter of Claim 17, wherein payment slot is further defined as a coin chute for receiving coins and wherein the parking meter further includes a coin box coupled to the coin chute.